

2011 BOARD OF SELECTMEN PRIORITIES

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

Strategies:

- Continue to monitor economic climate and its effect on town budget and projects.
- Develop a prudent 2011/2012 budget
- Analyze prior capital expenditures to influence funding priorities and capital spending
- Continue to implement efficiencies and economies to reduce costs including an evaluation of shared services with the Board of Education
- Pursue opportunities for facility optimization which would lead to efficiency in facility usage
- Pursue grant opportunities and alternate funding for projects
- Renegotiate contracts and readjust fees where applicable
- Encourage greater fiscal transparency with Town block grant recipients
- Encourage transparency in the property assessment process through improved public education and awareness
- Help facilitate the timely resolution of all tax appeals

ENVIRONMENT

Strategies:

- Develop and implement as ready cohesive solutions to mitigate the effects of flooding and educate private property owners
 - Review Heights Road drainage and work on improvements
 - Consider implementation of recommendations from the Flood Mitigation Strategy Committee
- Support fiscally prudent energy saving measures in municipal facilities
- Continue efforts to improve the environment.
 - Partner with the City of Stamford to improve the health of Holly Pond
 - Partner with the Friends of Gorham's Pond to develop plans to dredge the Pond
 - Monitor I-95 Rest Stop project for impact on local environment

OPEN AND COMMUNITY SPACE

Strategies:

- Continue to improve maintenance of all open space, town properties and facilities
- Review and evaluate current use of Town owned properties and facilities
- Actively review available properties for acquisition
- Further develop plans to meet space needs for the Darien Senior Center

HUMAN SERVICES

Strategies:

- Monitor the need for additional funding for community support services
- Coordinate with the Darien Social Services Department and other outside support groups so as to better address community issues
- Revisit BoS land use policy for the Senior Center site

DOWNTOWN AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Strategies:

- Encourage conceptual master plans for Downtown Darien, Noroton Heights and selected neighborhood commercial clusters (e.g., portions of the Post Road)
 - Review and consider the SWRPA Route 1 Corridor Study
 - Consider Resource Report recommendations for the downtown
 - Encourage the use of “smart growth” standards while planning for development
- Support the efforts of the Darien Chamber of Commerce

TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION

Strategies:

- Work with the Police Department, Police Commission and CDOT on traffic and pedestrian safety within Darien
- Pursue the completion of outstanding projects with CDOT and initiate discussion on Post Road flooding
- Continue to implement improvements to Noroton Heights and Darien Rail Stations
- Develop plans to increase and better utilize commuter parking
- Develop priority areas for sidewalk replacement, extension and the addition of new sidewalks
- Support mass transit initiatives at the State level

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Strategies:

- Review Affordable Housing Plan and identify implementation of recommendations
- Pursue a second moratorium by encouraging private development of affordable housing
- Facilitate affordable housing with the use of tax strategies and other tools as appropriate to development opportunities
- Continue to support the redevelopment of Allen O'Neill Homes